

REMARKS

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended by canceling “a system for” and “Other system are also provided”.

FIG. 3 has been amended by adding the legend --Prior Art-- as suggested by Examiner.

Claims 2 and 25 are canceled.

Claims 1, 3-4, 15, 17, 24, 26-27, 38, and 40 have been amended.

After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 3-24, and 26-48 remain pending in this application.

35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1, 14-16, 24, 37-39 and 46-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Gonzalez et al. (US. 5,640,342). After entry of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

With regard to claim 46, claim 46 recites a 4T-SRAM cell in a SRAM array having pairs of a first and second bit line, and a first and second word line, comprising a first transistor of a first conductivity type having a gate coupled to one of the first word lines and a source coupled to one of the first bit lines; a second transistor of the first conductivity type having a gate coupled to a drain of the first transistor and a source coupled to receive a first voltage; a third transistor of a second conductivity type having a gate coupled to a drain of the second transistor, a source coupled to receive a second voltage and a drain coupled to the drain of the first transistor; and a fourth transistor of the second conductivity type having a gate coupled to one of the second word lines, a source coupled to one of the second bit lines and a drain coupled to the gate of the third transistor.

Gonzalez does not teach or suggest a fourth transistor of the second conductivity type having *a gate coupled to one of the second word lines, a source coupled to one of the second bit lines* and a drain coupled to the gate of the third transistor.

As shown in FIG. 4 of Gonzalez, the gate of fourth transistor (24) is coupled to first transistor (10) coupled to first word line, not coupled to a second word line. In addition, the source of the transistor (24) is coupled to Vcc, not coupled to a second bit line.

For this reason alone, Applicant believes that claim 46 is allowable over the cited reference. Insofar as claim 46 is allowable, claims 47-48, all depend from claim 46 and its related claims, including every claimed element thereof, are also allowable on their own merits in claiming additional elements not included in claim 46.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-13, 17-23, 25-36 and 40-45 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are allowable if rewritten in independent forms including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The limitations of claim 2 have been added to the amended claim 1 (and claim 2 has been correspondingly canceled), and claims 3 and 4 are amended to be dependent on the amended claim 1.

Similarly, certain defining limitations of claim 17 are added to the amended claim 15.

The limitations of claim 25 are added to the amended claim 24 (and claim 25 has been correspondingly canceled), claims 26 and 27 are amended to dependent on the amended claim 24.

Certain defining limitations of claim 40 are added to the amended claim 38.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 15, 24 and 38 are allowable over the cited references. Insofar as claims 1, 15, 24, 38, and 46 are allowable, claims 3-14, 16-23, 26-37, 39-45, and 47-48, which all depend from claims 1, 15, 24, 38, and 46 (respectively) and/or their related claims, are also allowable. Further, Applicant submits that the dependent claims further define over the cited art of record, based on the additional features and limitations embodied in those claims.

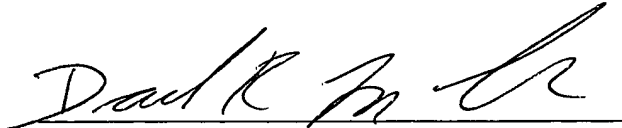
CONCLUSION

Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of all claims, as amended herein, are respectfully requested. Applicant has made every effort to place the present application in condition for allowance. It is therefore earnestly requested that the present application, as a whole, receive favorable consideration and that all of the claims be allowed in their present form.

Should the Examiner feel that further discussion of the application and the Amendment is conducive to prosecution and allowance thereof, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at the address and telephone listed below.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

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Annotated Sheet

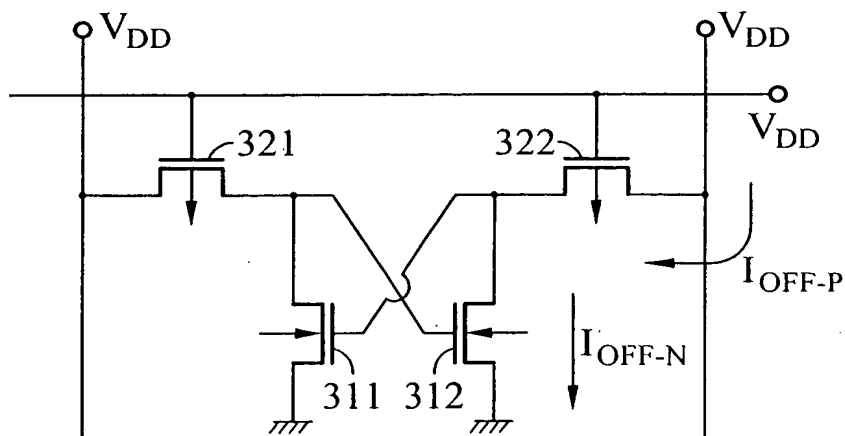


FIG. 3 (Prior Art)

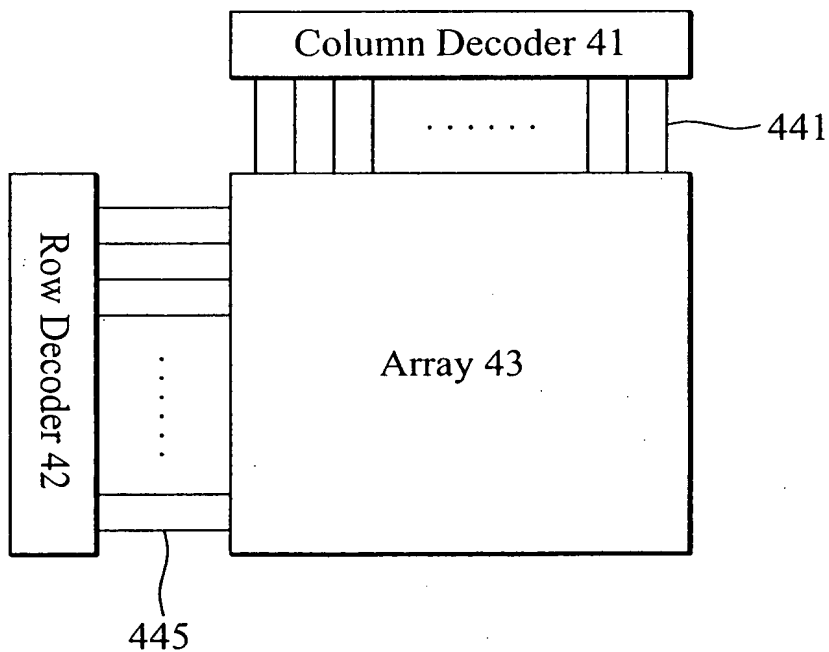


FIG. 4